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TALENT KEYHOLE

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Mandatory Review
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The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 24 April 1967

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DAILY BRIEF
24 APRIL 1967

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3. Soviet Union

Soyuz-1, the new Soviet manned spacecraft launched on Saturday, has been having serious difficulties. The cosmonaut tried to bring the spacecraft down at 8:00 PM EST on Sunday, but failed. He tried on the next orbit, and may have succeeded. If not, he will have two or possibly three more chances, at ninety-minute intervals, to come down in the USSR Sunday night. Failing these, he must wait until Monday night.

The difficulty in deorbiting may be a result of the troubles the spacecraft has been having with stabilization, communications, and power supplies. These are more serious than the Soviets have experienced with any of their previous manned craft.

Soyuz-1 carried only one man, but had room for three. It was the first manned test of a new spacecraft the Soviets have been developing, most likely for a circumlunar flight. The Soviets may have originally intended a more complex mission for this spacecraft, such as orbiting a second spacecraft and transferring crew members, but scrapped these plans when troubles developed.

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